

File
with
Mercur, Getty



SCOTT M. MATHESON
GOVERNOR



STATE OF UTAH
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Division of
State History
(UTAH STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY)

MELVIN T. SMITH - DIRECTOR
300 RIO GRANDE
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH 84101
TELEPHONE 801 533-5755

PRO/045/013

April 1, 1981

Mr. Brian Buck
Getty Mineral Resources Company
P. O. Box 15668
345 Bearcat Drive
Salt Lake City, Utah 84115

RE: Mine Plan Application, Mercur Canyon

Dear Mr. Buck:

In response to your request for review and in accordance with your responsibility as outlined in 36 CFR 800.4, we are happy to consult with you concerning your project.

The Utah State Historic Preservation Officer's staff has received for review the archeological investigations in the Mercur Canyon locality of Tooele and Utah Counties, Utah. This was Paper #26, completed by the Archeological and Environmental Research Corporation. After review by staff historians and archeologists, it has been determined by our office that generally this treatment of the cultural resources in the Mercur Canyon locality is adequate. Our office, however, would like to discuss some problems that the report presents and suggests that the staff of Getty Oil, the Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining, and our office meet at your convenience to discuss the future development in the Mercur Canyon area.

In general, much of the treatment of the historic resources, classification, and location are of little effect. The CRSS categories of the BLM are poorly related to the National Register criteria in this case. Eligibility to the National Register for sites besides Mercur is asserted usually on the basis of criteria D, but not explained or argued. The CRSS S-1 rating of the Mercur townsites seems inappropriate on the basis of the S-1 requirements of a site in good condition. National Register eligibility for the whole district, as asserted by AERC, seems most unlikely; little is left of the town and mines.

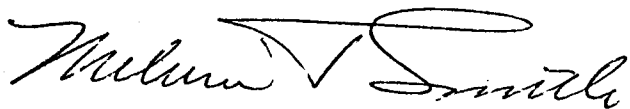
Our office would agree that there is potential for historic archeological information in Mercur, but that may be tied to criteria D, and what information the site is likely to yield.

Mr. Brian Buck
Getty Mineral Resources Company
April 1, 1981

In summary there seems to be a great confusion in this report of why the sites are eligible, and how that eligibility has been determined.

Should you need assistance or clarification, please call or write James L. Dykman, Cultural Resource Advisor, (801) 533-7039, or Henry O. Whiteside, Historian, (801) 533-6017, Utah State Historical Society, Preservation Development, 300 Rio Grande, Salt Lake City, Utah 84101.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Melvin T. Smith". The signature is fluid and stylized, with the first and last names being more prominent than the middle initial.

Melvin T. Smith
Director and
State Historic Preservation Officer

JLD:jr:E276Multi

cc: Tom Tedding, Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining